

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 /079 W
----- 080225

P R 220909Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4284

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15108

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT EINV JA VN

SUBJ: JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN ROAD LINK FROM VIENTIANE TO VINH, NVN

1. DURING LUNCHEON DISCUSSION OF ASIAN SCENE, KEIDANREN OFFICIALS (COUNSELOR TOSHIRO SHIMANOCHI, FORMER JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, AND KAZUO NUKAZAWA, SENIOR ASST. DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) INQUIRED ABOUT LIKELY USG REACTION TO PRIVATE JAPANESE INVESTMENT TO CONVERT THE TRAIL FROM VIENTIANE, LAOS, TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COASTAL CITY VINH INTO AN ALL-WEATHER ROAD. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT CURRENT USG ATTITUDES TOWARD INDOCHINA WERE WELL-KNOWN BUT WE DID NOT SEEK TO IMPOSE OUR VIEWS ON OTHER NATIONS, INCLUDING FRIENDLY NATIONS, IN DEVELOPING THEIR TIES WITH TODAY'S INDOCHINESE STATES. NEVERTHELESS, EMBOFF EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT ALL WEATHER LINK THROUGH NVN WOULD INCREASE HANOI'S INFLUENCE AND CONTROL OVER LAOS AND SINCE AN ALTERNATIVE OUTLET TO THE SEA WOULD BE AVAILABLE, ROAD WOULD ALSO LESSEN THE NECESSITY FOR LAOS TO RE-ESTABLISH AMICAL RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. FOR THE TIME BEING, CONFIDENTIAL

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THEREFORE, PROJECT SEEMED TO BE POLITICALLY AND STRATEGICALLY

UNDESIRABLE. ASKED BY NUKAZAWA IF LAOTIAN OUTLET TO SEA WERE
JEOPARDIZED BY THAILAND, COULD THIS NOT WRECK THE LAOTIAN
ECONOMY, EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT POLICIES OF PGNU WERE THE GREATEST
THREAT TO THE ECONOMY OF LAOS.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BURIED IN WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION, POINT
OF LUNCH HOSTED FOR EMBASSY POLOFF WHO COVERS SE ASIA SEEMED TO
BE QUERY ABOUT VIENTIANE-VINH ROAD. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE
DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS -- CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR AMPLIFICATIONS --
IF ANY, ON OUR "PERSONAL RESPONSE," SHOULD SUBJECT BE RAISED
AGAIN.
HODGSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, INVESTMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO15108
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750366-0552
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751031/aaaabbke.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN ROAD LINK FROM VIENTIANE TO VINH, NVN
TAGS: EEW, EINV, JA, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006